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## CLAIMS

- 44 -

1. A polypeptide consisting essentially of a sequence corresponding to residues 163 to 199 of DP-1, said sequence being:

KNIRRRVYDALNVLMAMNIISKEKKEIKWIGLPTNSA (SEQ ID NO:1).

- 2. A polypeptide fragment of the polypeptide of claim 1 which is capable of antagonising the heterodimerization of a DP protein with an E2F protein.
- 3. A polypeptide according to claim 2 which is comprises the sequence NVLMAMNIIS (SEQ ID NO:2) or ALNVLAM (SEQ ID NO:7).
- 4. A polypeptide according to claim 3 which is selected from the group consisting of:

RRRVYDALNVLMAMNIISK (SEQ ID NO:3);

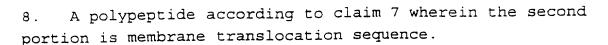
NVLMAMNIISKEKKEIKWIG (SEQ ID NO:4);

RVYDALNVLMAMNIIS (SEQ ID NO:5); and

YDALNVLMAMNIISKEKKEIKWIGLPTNSA (SEQ ID NO:6).

- 5. A variant of a polypeptide as defined in any one of claims 1 to 4, said variant differing from the polypeptide by the presence of from 1 to 5 amino acid substitutions in the sequence of said polypeptide, said variant being capable of antagonising the heterodimerization of a DP protein with an E2F protein.
- 6. A variant according to claim 5 wherein the substitutions include substitutions selected from one or more residues corresponding to residues 167, 169, 171 and 175 of DP-1.
- 7. A polypeptide which comprises a first portion having the amino acid sequence of a polypeptide defined in any one of claims 1 to 6 and a second portion, attached to the N- or C-terminus of the first portion, which comprises a sequence of amino acid not naturally contiguous to the first portion in DP-1.

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- 9. A polypeptide according to claim 8 wherein the membrane translocation sequence is derived from the *Drosophila* melanogaster antennapedia protein.
- 10. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a polypeptide according to any one of the preceding claims together with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.
- 11. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 10 which further comprises a cytostatic or cytotoxic agent.
- 12. A polypeptide according to any one of claims 1 to 9 or a composition according to claim 10 for use in a method of treatment of the human or animal body.
- 13. A method of inducing apoptosis in a cell which comprises introducing into said cell an effective amount of a polypeptide according to any one of claims 1 to 9.
- 14. A method according to claim 13 wherein said cell is a tumour cell.
- 15. A method according to claim 13 wherein said cell is a cardiovascular cell.
- 16. A product comprising a polypeptide as defined in any one of claims 1 to 9 and a cytostatic or cytotoxic agent as a combined preparation for separate or sequential use in a method of treatment of the human or animal body.
- 17. A surgical stent which comprises a polypeptide as defined in any one of claims 1 to 9 in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

- 18. An expression vector comprising a promoter operably linked to a sequence encoding a polypeptide as defined in any one of claims 1 to 9.
- 19. A host cell carrying a vector according to claim 18.